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ON TAP

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Water Supply Reliability

As discussion continues about the statewide drought, TCWD is taking a good, hard look at water supply reliability.

What is water supply reliability? It is a number of things:

First, it is the source of the water. If you ask the question, “Where did this water come from?” then you would be talking about the source. TCWD imports water from the Colorado River. Sometimes the source of water is from the north via the State Water Project and California Aqueduct. Also, when there is plentiful rain locally, TCWD is able to start its two wells and provide local water as a source.

Another factor concerning reliability and the source of water is the availability of the water at the source. This speaks directly to the drought issue. If the large statewide storage reservoirs continue to be at record low water levels, the reliability of the source of water becomes questionable.

The second issue concerning reliability is the delivery of the water. Simply put, there are pumps, pipes, and reservoirs that are owned and operated by the large wholesale water district (Metropolitan

Water District). Once the water is delivered to TCWD, the pumps, pipes, and reservoirs are owned by the District.

TCWD has multiple pipelines that can provide water into the District. These pipelines are called ‘inter-ties’ and connect with adjacent water districts. During periods of normal operations, TCWD uses major pipelines as its water supply line. The number of pumps used on any given line is a product of how big the pipeline is and the elevation to which the water is being pumped.

TCWD owns a number of reservoirs (sometimes called water tanks). These reservoirs are made of steel and can range in size from 1.5 to 2.5 million gallon capacities. They are strategically located throughout the District to guarantee ample flows of water even in high demand periods during the day.

So is that all there is to water supply reliability? No. District staff is always looking for ways to “diversify” its water supply portfolio. Two opportunities are being explored at this time.

Water districts in south Orange County are finalizing plans for the design and construction of a “regional water treatment facility” to be located in Lake

Forest. This would provide a valuable alternative for water supply during normal conditions and in the event of an emergency. TCWD is participating in the project and the facility will be the subject of a future *ON TAP* edition.

Also, a number of water districts throughout the county have joined together and are engaged in discussions with Poseidon Resources LLC. This is the proposed sea water desalinization project to be located near the energy generating facility in Huntington Beach.

And finally, the District's ongoing efforts to capture local urban runoff water and reuse this water in its reclaimed water system offsets the need to import water for this use. Every drop counts.

Artificial Turf

Have you recently installed artificial turf at your home? Are you happy with the results? Has it had an impact on your water bill? We would like to talk to you!

Please contact Teresa Teichman at (949) 858-0277 ext. 106 or e mail at tteichman@tcwd.ca.gov.

Can you reduce your water consumption by 10 percent? If every water user in southern California did just this, the beneficial impact on the statewide reservoirs would be dramatic!

A reminder, if you pay your utility billings through your bank and designate the due date of your water bill as the date for payment, you might be risking a late fee. This is due to the fact that the bank's payment process may delay the payment to the District until after the due date. If this occurs, the payment will be

The Regular Board Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ **September 17, 2008 – Approved an Agreement for a Dry Weather Runoff Recovery Project.**
- ◇ **Received information relating to financial assumptions and water rates.**
- ◇ **Received status updates relating to the Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Upgrades to Treatment Facilities, the Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility, and the Poseidon Desalination Project.**
- ◇ **Conducted a Closed Session.**

ON TAP is published and distributed by TCWD. We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Sharon E. Smith, Editor

TCWD's *ON-TAP*

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